

# Senate File 245 - Enrolled

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SENATE FILE 245

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## AN ACT

RELATING TO A SECONDARY SCHOOL CORE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING  
REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DETERMINE A MODEL  
CORE CURRICULUM AND SET A STATEWIDE CORE CURRICULUM COMPLETION  
RATE GOAL, REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP A CORE  
CURRICULUM PLAN FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AND TO REPORT  
STUDENT CORE CURRICULUM PROGRESS ANNUALLY, REQUIRING SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS TO REPORT CORE CURRICULUM COMPLETION  
PERCENTAGES ANNUALLY, AND PROVIDING FOR THE COORDINATION OF  
AN EDUCATIONAL DATA DEFINITIONS WORKING GROUP.

1 14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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Section 1. Section 256.7, Code 2005, is amended by adding  
the following new subsection:

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NEW SUBSECTION. 26. Develop a model core curriculum,  
taking into consideration the recommendations of the American  
college testing program, inc. The state board shall set a  
goal of increasing the number of students graduating from  
secondary school who have successfully completed a core  
curriculum, by July 1, 2009, to eighty percent of all students  
graduating from secondary schools in this state except that  
the goal shall be exclusive of students who have special or  
alternative means for satisfying graduation requirements under  
individualized educational plans developed for the students.  
For purposes of this section, "core curriculum" means the  
minimum number of specific high school courses that a student  
needs to take in preparation for advanced career and  
vocational purposes.

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Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph c, Code  
2005, is amended to read as follows:

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c. A requirement that all school districts and accredited  
nonpublic schools annually report to the department and the  
local community the district-wide progress made in attaining  
student achievement goals on the academic and other core  
indicators and the district-wide progress made in attaining  
locally established student learning goals. The school  
districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall demonstrate  
the use of multiple assessment measures in determining student  
achievement levels. The school districts and accredited  
nonpublic schools shall also report the number of students who  
enter ninth grade but do not graduate from the school or  
school district; ~~and~~ the number of students who are tested and  
the percentage of students who are so tested annually; ~~and the~~  
percentage of students who graduated during the prior school  
year and who completed a core curriculum. The board shall  
develop and adopt uniform definitions consistent with the  
federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107=110  
and any federal regulations adopted pursuant to the federal  
Act. The school districts and accredited nonpublic schools  
may report on other locally determined factors influencing  
student achievement. The school districts and accredited  
nonpublic schools shall also report to the local community  
their results by individual attendance center.

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Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 279.60 STUDENT PLAN FOR PROGRESS  
TOWARD UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS == REPORT.

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1. For the school year beginning July 1, 2006, and each  
succeeding school year, the board of directors of each school  
district shall cooperate with each student enrolled in grade  
eight to develop for the student a core curriculum plan to  
guide the student toward the goal of successfully completing,  
at a minimum, the model core curriculum developed by the state  
board of education pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26,  
by the time the student graduates from high school.

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2. For the school year beginning July 1, 2006, and each  
succeeding school year, the board of directors of each school  
district shall report annually to each student enrolled in  
grades nine through twelve in the school district, and to each  
student's parent or guardian, the student's progress toward  
meeting the goal of successfully completing the model core  
curriculum developed by the state board of education pursuant  
to section 256.7, subsection 26.

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Sec. 4. EDUCATIONAL DATA DEFINITIONS WORKING GROUP.

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3 6 1. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds that individuals  
3 7 whose educational endeavors end without the receipt of a high  
3 8 school diploma have a much higher rate of unemployment and are  
3 9 much more likely to need welfare or other forms of government  
3 10 assistance. The economic implications of students' failure to  
3 11 earn at a minimum a high school diploma are staggering, and  
3 12 increasingly so as our economy becomes more dependent on the  
3 13 service and information industries. To understand the current  
3 14 state of educational achievement and future likelihood of  
3 15 success for Iowa's students, it is vital that state and local  
3 16 school district data on graduation rates be collectively  
3 17 understood and accurate.

3 18 2. The department of education shall coordinate a working  
3 19 group to develop clear, accurate, meaningful, and unambiguous  
3 20 definitions for the key data areas relating to, but not  
3 21 limited to, attrition, completion, and attendance rates, which  
3 22 school districts shall use in compiling state and local report  
3 23 cards. The working group shall determine the baseline data  
3 24 necessary to report on these terms and shall develop a  
3 25 strategy to contact school districts to ensure that the school  
3 26 districts are applying the definitions and consistently  
3 27 submitting data in accordance with the definitions. The  
3 28 working group shall consist of the following members:

3 29 a. Two senators appointed by the president of the senate  
3 30 after consultation with the majority leader and the minority  
3 31 leader of the senate.

3 32 b. Two representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
3 33 house after consultation with the minority leader of the  
3 34 house.

3 35 c. Members representing minority populations.

4 1 d. A member representing the largest school district in  
4 2 Iowa.

4 3 e. A member representing a school district with an  
4 4 enrollment of more than one thousand one hundred ninety-nine  
4 5 students but not more than four thousand seven hundred fifty  
4 6 students.

4 7 f. A member representing a school district with an  
4 8 enrollment of one thousand one hundred ninety-nine students or  
4 9 less.

4 10 g. Other members representing the education community as  
4 11 needed.

4 12 3. The working group shall submit its findings and  
4 13 recommendations to the department of education and the  
4 14 chairpersons and members of the committees on education in the  
4 15 senate and the house of representatives not later than January  
4 16 15, 2006.

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JOHN P. KIBBIE  
President of the Senate

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CHRISTOPHER C. RANTS  
Speaker of the House

4 28 I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and  
4 29 is known as Senate File 245, Eighty-first General Assembly.

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MICHAEL E. MARSHALL  
Secretary of the Senate

4 35 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

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